Export of village produced goods

4433. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to push exports of village produced goods, by grant of deemed Export Promotion Council status to the Village Industries Commission, to ensure all-inclusive growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this initiative would create employment for lakhs of women and the rural poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Khadi and Village Industries Commission was granted deemed Export Promotion Council status on 11.12.2006. This would enable KVIC to take various initiatives for export promotion. Increase in KVIC's exports would create additional employment opportunities for women and the rural poor.

Designating special products at Doha Round

4434. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which farm commodities would be designated as Special Products in the ongoing negotiations of the WTO's Doha Round; and

(b) how would Government respond to the United States insistence that Special Products should be limited to "not more than the tariff lines"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Through the General Council Decision of 1 August, 2004 (the "Framework") and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 18 December, 2005 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) it has been agreed that developing country Members will have the flexibility to self-designate an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. The G-33 alliance, of which India is a

founder Member, has proposed an indicative list of indicators, whose application would determine the agricultural products that could be designated as SPs by any developing country Member. Proposals for guiding the designation of SPs have also been presented by other WTO Members. The agricultural products for designation as SPs by India would be based upon the indicators, once they are finalized under the Doha Work Programme.

(b) Although the US has proposed that up to 5 tariff lines be agreed to be designated as SPs. India and the G-33 have rejected this proposal as being inconsistent with the agreed mandate to designate an appropriate number which is required to be based on the three aforesaid criteria. Other developing country groups, including the Africa Group and the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific countries, have supported the G-33's position in this regard.

Export target for 2007-08

4435. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set new export target for 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the thrust areas of export;

(c) whether giving exemption in exporting agro produce and vegetables will create shortage in the domestic market, leading to upsurge in their prices; and

(d) if so, what action Government contemplate to ensure their adequate availability in domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Government have set an export target of US $160 billion for the current year 2007-08 with major thrust on Exports from rural and semi-urban areas.

(c) and (d) The FTP as updated on 19.4.07 only aims at stimulating greater economic activity and employment generation in the rural and semi urban areas by incentivising exports from these sectors by way of rewards schemes like Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana,